MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): We were not selling our timber for nominal prices.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Is the Member aware of the statement made by the Dewan in his address to the Assembly about this matter ; and if so, may I know whether that is correct or this?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I have no information now. I claim notice.

Purchase of Land for Tenmalai Depôt.

347. **MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR** (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state how many acres of land were purchased for the site for the Tenmalai Forest Depôt and the price paid for the same?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): 28·52 acres of land were purchased in 1085 for the Tenmalai Depôt site at a cost of Rs. 3,744-14-6.

Preferential Treatment to Backward Communities in Service.

348. **MR. R. PADMANABHAN** (*Nominated*) : (*a*) Are the Government aware that there are a good many unemployed graduates belonging to the educationally backward communities who are denied entertainment in public service?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether it is their policy to accord preferential treatment to such backward communities in the matter of entertainment in public service ;

(ii) if so, whether this policy is being strictly followed in the matter of appointments in all departments, especially in the Secretariat and the Account Office ; and

(iii) whether they have recently ruled that seniority among acting hands in the Secretariat and the Account Office should be determined by the date of first entertainment in the service?

(*c*) Has the above rule affected the seniority of acting Ezhava clerks in the Account Office and the Secretariat?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to modify the above rule so that it may not stand in the way of according preferential treatment to the backward communities of the State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The Government are aware that there are many unemployed graduates in the State, but have no information about their communal distribution.

(*b*) (i) The policy of the Government is that efficiency should be the paramount consideration in recruitment to the public service and that applications for appointments from members of communities which are backward in education should be given favourable treatment if it can be done without sacrifice of efficiency.

(ii) The Government presume that this is being done.

(iii) The answer is in the affirmative.

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[Mr. K. George.]

(*c*) Yes, in the case of two acting Ezhava graduate clerks in the Account Office and one in the Secretariat.

(*d*) The rule does not stand in the way of according preferential treatment to backward communities at the time of initial recruitment, and hence there is no need to modify the rule.

Procedure re Legal Action against Police Officers.

349. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to modify the provision that legal action by the people against police officers should be taken only in a First Class Magistrate's Court, and to rule that such complaints may be lodged in any court according to the nature of the case?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The rule applies only to alleged offences by police officers under the Police Regulation IV of 1095. The existence of this restriction cannot be said to have worked hardship during the period it has been in force. Frivolous complaints in the lower Magisterial Courts must be guarded against. The Government see no reason therefore to alter the rule.

Accidents from Motor Vehicles.

350. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of injuries and deaths caused by service motor vehicles during the twelve months ending the 30th Kanni 1101?

(*b*) Are they aware that such accidents are on the increase?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to specially direct the Police Commissioner to properly control the service motor vehicles by making the necessary provisions against overloading and rash driving?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Cases of injury ... 57
Cases of death ... 8

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is already engaging the attention of the Police Commissioner.

Communal Representation in the State Service.

351. **MR. T. J. MATTHEW** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they have called for a statement of the appointments, caste by caste, made in the years 1098 and 1099 by the various heads of departments;

(ii) if so, whether they have scrutinised those statements and [illegible]ny orders thereon;

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